

**THE NEW MEXICO ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT, SURFACE WATER QUALITY
BUREAU ON THE PROPOSED REVISIONS TO THE STATEWIDE WATER
QUALITY MANAGEMENT PLAN**

**NOTICE OF A 45-DAY PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD
AND COMMUNITY MEETING FOR PROPOSED
REVISIONS TO THE INTRODUCTION AND WORK ELEMENT 11 OF THE
STATEWIDE WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT PLAN**

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED), Surface Water Quality Bureau (SWQB) invites the public to comment on draft revisions to the Introduction and Work Element 11 (Public Participation Program) of the Statewide Water Quality Management Plan (WQMP). The WQMP document is a statewide planning tool developed to ensure that long-range goals of the federal Clean Water Act are met. These goals include "restoring and maintaining the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the nation's waters." The WQMP provides a consistent approach for maintaining, improving, and protecting water quality.

A public meeting will be held in Santa Fe to present a summary of proposed revisions and to provide a forum for interested parties to ask questions and provide comments. The meeting will be held Monday, February 17, 2003, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. MST at the Wild Oats Community Room located behind Wild Oats Market, 1090 South St. Francis Drive.

The 45-day comment period begins January 14, 2003 at 8:00 a.m. MST and will end February 28, 2003 at 5:00 p.m. MST. During this period the public may provide written comments and/or provide a written request for a hearing on the matter. Formal comments for inclusion in the public record should be submitted to the SWQB, in writing, at the meeting or to **Stephanie Stringer, of the NMED SWQB, Room N2067, P.O. Box 26110, Santa Fe, New Mexico, 87502** or e-mail: [<stephanie_stringer@nmenv.state.nm.us>](mailto:stephanie_stringer@nmenv.state.nm.us) (if possible, please submit an electronic copy as well; the SWQB will provide a confirmation of receipt for electronic mail submissions). Requests for a hearing must be submitted to [Geraldine Madrid-Chavez](mailto:Geraldine.Madrid-Chavez@nmenv.state.nm.us) at the Commission's office, Room S2054, 1190 St. Francis Drive, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505, (505) 827-2425 on or before February 28, 2003.

The SWQB will approach the New Mexico Water Quality Control Commission at their regular monthly meeting, tentatively set for April 8, 2003, to request final review and approval of the revisions for incorporation into the WQMP, or to schedule a public hearing if warranted by the public participation process.

For more information, contact Stephanie Stringer, of the NMED SWQB, at P.O. Box 26110, Santa Fe, New Mexico, 87502 or by calling (505) 827-0418 or e-mail: [<stephanie_stringer@nmenv.state.nm.us>](mailto:stephanie_stringer@nmenv.state.nm.us). The draft revisions to the WQMP are available upon request and will be posted on the Surface Water Quality Bureau's website (by January 14), which can be found at: <http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us/swqb/>.

If you are an individual with a disability and you require assistance or an auxiliary aid (e.g. translator or sign-language interpreter) to participate in any aspect of this process, please contact [Cliff Hawley](mailto:Cliff.Hawley@nmenv.state.nm.us) by February 1, 2003, at the New Mexico Environment Department, P.O. Box 26110, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502, (505) 827-2850 (TDD or TDY users please access his number via the New Mexico Relay Network. Albuquerque TDD users: (505) 275-7333; outside of Albuquerque: 1-800-659-1779.)

PLEASE POST AND/OR FORWARD TO INTERESTED PARTIES